

Ser. No. 10/718,855

Remarks

Claims 1-19 were pending in the application. Claims 5-9 and 17-19 were rejected. Claims 1-4 were withdrawn. Claims 10-16 were merely objected to and no claims were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, no claims are canceled, claim 21 is amended, and claim 26 is added. No new matter is presented.

Upon review of the prior amendment, typographical errors in claims 20 and 21 were found and have hereby been corrected.

The Notice

The Notice requested further reasons for the allowability of claim 23. Further reasons regarding this and other claims are presented below.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 5-9 and 17-19 had been rejected as being anticipated by Hunter, Jr. (US Patent No. 5,494,004). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as to the amended claims. In view of the prior amendment to claim 5, the rejection is believed moot.

Independent claim 20 references the two mixtures of former claim 10 but does not reference the purge gas of former base claim 5. This is not suggested by the references. Specifically, claim 20 identifies first and second fuel/oxidizer mixtures with the second mixture less detonable than the first. Hunter, Jr. suggests only a single fuel/oxidizer mixture. Its dependent claim 21 further characterizes the introduction of the first fuel and oxidizer in such a way that their introduction fills a volume of the conduit extending beyond one or more ports through which the second fuel and oxidizer are introduced. New claim 26 more structurally recites relative port location and is supported by as-filed claim 4. Again, Hunter, Jr. fails to suggest this relative port location.

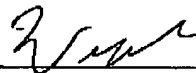
Whereas claims 21 and 26 address the locations where the two mixtures are introduced, independent claim 23 addresses the locations/volumes where they are positioned prior to combustion. This, too, is not suggested by the references. Specifically, claim 23 like claims 5 and 20 identifies first and second fuel/oxidizer mixtures with the second mixture less detonable than

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the first. Claim 23 further identifies that the more detonable mixture is downstream of the less detonable mixture. Because Hunter, Jr. fails to suggest the two distinct mixtures, generally, it fails to suggest the specific positioning. Advantages of the two mixture combination are discussed at paragraph 0022 at page 7 of the as-filed application. Further advantages of the claim 26 port positioning are discussed at paragraph 0021

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 5-9, 11-14, and 17-26 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

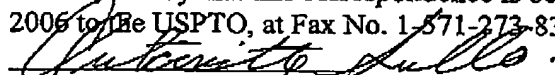
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted this 23rd day of March, 2006 to the USPTO, at Fax No. 1-871-273-8300.


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